

FISCAL NOTE

Bill #: HB0093

Title: Commission on gasoline pricing competition

Primary Sponsor: Harris, C.

Status: As introduced

Sponsor signature	Date	David Ewer, Budget Director	Date
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Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY 2006 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2007 Difference</u>
Expenditures:		
General Fund	\$7,500	\$7,500
Revenue:		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Net Impact on General Fund Balance:	(\$7,500)	(\$7,500)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov. Impact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 |

Fiscal Analysis

ASSUMPTIONS:

Department of Commerce

1. HB 93 creates and administratively attaches a five member Commission on Gasoline Pricing Competition to the Department of Commerce. Section 1(4) provides that members must be reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to 2-18-15, MCA. The Department estimates that the commission would meet 6 times each fiscal year at an estimated cost of \$250 per member, or \$7,500 of general fund each year of the 2007 biennium.
2. Limited administrative support for the commission could be provided within the budget contained in the Executive Budget Request. However, should the Commission chose to subpoena witnesses, require court reporters, industry surveys, professional services, office space, computers, and equipment as authorized in Section 1(6) and (7) of the bill, then additional general fund would be required. It is thought this level of support could be as much as \$50,000 of additional general fund each fiscal year. Should the commission decide it needed dedicated staff as is authorized in Section 1(6) of the bill, then additional general fund per each FTE would be needed. For the purposes of this fiscal note it is assumed the commission would require a very limited amount of support.

Fiscal Note Request HB0093, As introduced
(continued)

FISCAL IMPACT:

Department of Commerce

	<u>FY 2006</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>FY 2007</u> <u>Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Operating Expenses	\$7,500	\$7,500
<u>Funding of Expenditures:</u>		
General Fund (01)	\$7,500	\$7,500
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u>		
General Fund (01)	(\$7,500)	(\$7,500)

TECHNICAL NOTES:

Department of Commerce

1. With the exception of effective and termination dates, HB 93, as introduced, is identical to HB 245 and HB 158, which were introduced in the 2003 and 2001 legislative sessions respectively.
2. The Department of Commerce, when preparing the fiscal note for HB 158 in the 2001 session, proposed attaching the Commission on Gasoline Pricing Competition to the Weights and Measures Program. This program is now attached to the Department of Labor and Industry and regulates fuel pumps and tests octane among other duties.
3. The Weights & Measures program would best be able to assist and support the commission in its examination of the motor fuel industry in Montana.